



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

Fact Sheet

WTO and Agriculture **What's at Stake for South Carolina?**

October 1999

South Carolina produces and exports agricultural and forestry products worldwide. The state's farm cash receipts and forest product shipments totaled \$7.2 billion in 1998 and \$1.8 billion in 1996, respectively. As for exports, the state's agricultural sales overseas reached an estimated \$1.5 billion in 1998. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 22,800 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports are important to South Carolina's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports rose from 18 percent to 21 percent since 1991.

The top five agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # tobacco leaf -- \$99 million
- # cotton -- \$56 million
- # poultry and products -- \$53 million
- # soybeans and products -- \$43 million
- # wheat and products -- \$36 million

World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition. If South Carolina's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

South Carolina Benefits From Trade Agreements

- # South Carolina benefits under the Uruguay Round as South Korea grants unlimited access for frozen chicken at a 20 percent tariff by 2004. Poland opened market access equal to 8.5 percent of domestic consumption, and the Philippines opened a tariff-rate quota for 14,000 tons of chicken, which will reach 23,500 tons by 2004.
- # South Carolina benefits under the Uruguay Round as the EU reduces tariffs by 20 percent to 50 percent, Japan reduces tariffs and binds its duty rate at zero for tobacco, and Argentina, Brazil, Turkey and others reduce their import duties.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28 percent on average for wood products.

